

Woodruff Residence
Erie, Pennsylvania

HABS No. Pa.-56

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PHOTOGRAPHS,
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 5-Pennsylvania

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey,
Karl E. Morrison, District Officer
319 Marine Bank Bldg., Erie, Pennsylvania

WOODRUFF RESIDENCE
Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania

Owner.

Erie Drug Company.

Date of Erection

1839.

Architect

Probably William Kelly.

Builder

Unknown.

Present Condition

Very good.

Number of Stories

Three stories and basement.

Materials of Construction:

Brick, wood, stone, fresco, stucco.

Other Existing Records:

Court House, biographical records of some of the people connected with it, very few historical records in histories of Erie County. Some newspaper notices of those who lived in the house, such as death notices.

Additional Data-Bibliography:

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Warner Beers and Co. 1884.

A Twentieth Century history of Erie County, Pennsylvania-Chicago-1909. The Lewis Publishing Co.-John Miller, Historian.

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania, 2 Vols. Historical Publishing Company 1925. Topeka--Indianapolis, by J. E. Reed (John Elmer).

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, Lippincott Co. 1861 by L. G. Sanford (Laura G.) Published by author and copyrighted by her in 1894.

Nelson's biographical dictionary and historical reference book of Erie County, Pennsylvania, Erie, 1896. Two-thirds of this book by Benjamin Whitman. From the press of Wilson, Humphries and Co. Fourth St., Logansport, Indiana.

Newspapers. Erie Daily Times, Erie Dispatch-Herald, Erie Observer. (Newspaper files of Erie Public Library).

WOODRUFF RESIDENCE
417 State Street
Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania

The Woodruff Residence belongs to the same period in Erie's history as the Old Custom House, in fact, it was part of the same property, built at the same time. It was erected by the United States Branch Bank of Philadelphia as a residence for the cashier of the bank, and the exterior is in harmony with the Old Custom House which is located to the north of it.

This house resembles a business block. It is three stories in height, of the same colored plaster stucco as the sides of the Custom House. However, while the Old Custom House had but two owners, this residence has changed hands many times, in fact sixteen or more, until at the present time it is the property of the Erie Drug Company who have transferred it into a chemical laboratory and wholesale drug place. William C. Curry was probably the first one to occupy this residence, and the Woodruff family the last to occupy it before it was commercialized.

The Woodruff residence is three stories in height, its length is 125' 5" width 30' 2" and height 41' 11". The first floor has four large rooms and entrance hall, the second floor has five bedrooms and a long hall, and the upper floor has three bedrooms and hall. This floor is not as large as the first and second stories as it extends only over part of the residence. The third floor is 67' 1" in length and 30' 2" in width. The basement is the same size as the first floor. The entrance door is placed to the right hand side of the front of this building, facing the west. To the north of it are placed two large windows. There are three windows on the second floor and three on the third floor.

The doorway is of a neat Grecian design with two stone pilasters capped by a Doric cap, above these pilasters is a plain frieze with dentil moulding surmounted by a moulding to match that of the pilaster caps, and this all surmounted by a plain entablature. The door is paneled with a large glass panel of simple design and opens to a vestibule with several steps leading to the long hallway.

The original plan of the house had a doorway opening into the parlor to the left hand upon entering or the north, with a library directly back of the parlor but with a doorway into the hall also. A door from the rear of the hall led to the dining room and a door from the dining room led to the kitchen.

The basement also contained rooms used for storage rooms and about two-thirds of the distance from the front a covered passage-way led from this building to the Old Custom House, which at that time was used as a bank. The second floor windows are ornamented with Greek Key ornamentation, and have window sills and lintels of stone. The first and third floor windows also have stone sills and lintels.

WOODRUFF RESIDENCE

The ceilings of the first floor in the front part of the house were ornamented by Greek mouldings and center designs. The inside doorways are perhaps the most outstanding feature. The doors being four paneled with slender vertical panels.

A stairway leads from the first floor hall to the second floor, simple in design to correspond to the rest of the ornamentation. Another stairway leads from the second to the upper story.

Many notable people have been connected with this building, either as owners or as guests.

Amie Scott Baxter

Approved

Paul Morrison Dist. Off.
July 28, 1936

Reviewed July 31, 1936 - me